



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Contractors recognized for outstanding transportation work

During the 2008 Contractor-Engineer Conference on January 30th in Madison, WisDOT presented its annual Construction Awards to recognize private-sector partners for outstanding work on transportation-related projects over the past year. Winners included:

- Excellence in Grading Award to Hoffman Construction Company of Black River Falls for work on WIS 57 in Door County;
- Excellence in Asphalt Paving Award to Payne & Dolan, Inc. of Waukesha for work on I-94 in Waukesha County;
- Excellence in Concrete Paving Award to Trierweiler Construction & Supply Company, Inc. of Marshfield for work on I-39/90/94 in Dane County;
- Excellence in Small Structures Award to Lunda Construction Company, Inc. of Black River Falls for work on the Tomahawk River Bridge and approaches in Oneida County;
- Excellence in Large Structures Award to Zenith Tech, Inc. of Waukesha for work on the Yahara River Bridge in Madison;
- Outstanding Airport Construction Award to La Londe Contractors of Milwaukee for paving the 4,650-foot runway at Wittman Field in Oshkosh.

Hiawatha 2007 ridership sets new calendar year record. It's official. Annual ridership aboard Amtrak's Hiawatha Service trains topped 600,000 for the first time ever – totaling 617,799 riders for 2007 – an increase of 5% or nearly 30,000 riders over 2006. It represents the highest annual ridership total since Wisconsin and Illinois began supporting the service in 1989. The December 2007 ridership total of 59,405 exceeded December of 2006 ridership by over 16%. Also in December:

- a total of 40,860 Hiawatha passengers got on/off at the newly remodeled downtown Milwaukee Intermodal Station;
- 12,485 passengers utilized the Milwaukee Airport Rail station;
- 5,416 riders used the new Sturtevant station.

Hiawatha trains provide seven daily round trips between Milwaukee and Chicago with unsurpassed on-time performance.

January traffic deaths down

The year 2008 is off to an encouraging start in terms of traffic fatalities. Preliminary data shows that although 44 people lost their lives on Wisconsin roadways last month, that's below the January 2007 total of 53, and well below the five-year average of 59 January traffic deaths. One factor could be this winter's snowy weather often means a drop in overall vehicle speeds. Adverse weather conditions can also result in planned trips being cancelled.

Number of Wisconsin drivers/vehicles continues to increase

If it seems a bit more crowded on state roadways, here's a couple reasons why: the number of vehicles registered in Wisconsin now totals about 5.5 million, up over 2% from last year. The popularity of trucks continues to increase with autos now outnumbering trucks by a mere 4,745 vehicles. Meanwhile, the number of licensed drivers in Wisconsin is also edging upward to just over 4 million. Male drivers slightly outnumber female drivers by about 1%.

Upcoming events

February 28, Partnering for Employment Workshop, Waukesha

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